7C 4412 (3) DARTFORD
Kent

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD.

FORTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

J. S. ROGERS, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.

TEMPORARY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

68152

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD.

Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1943.

To the Members of the Dartford Rural District Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Forty-fifth Annual Report.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

TEMPORARY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part time) :- J. S. ROGERS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (from February, 1943).

TEMPORARY DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part time) :- R. H. Barnfield, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P. (to January, 1943). E. H. Sterne, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,(from February to November, 1943) E. F. Cullis, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P., (from December, 1943)

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR (Whole time) :- F. Sutch, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

TEMPORARY SANITARY INSPECTOR (Whole time) :- P. P. Leacock, A.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A. (from May, 1943)

CLERK :- D. C. A. Bennie.

HEALTH VISITORS (Whole time) :- Miss D. M. Bates, S.R.N.,S.C.M., A.R.S.I., Miss M. E. Walling, S.R.N.,S.C.M.,A.R.S.I., Miss A. J. Leach, S.R.N.,S.C.M.,A.R.S.I.

OFFICERS WITH H.M.FORCES :- M.A.G.Ward, Deputy Medical Officer, T.H.Iddison, Sanitary Inspector, S.F.Hollands, Pupil Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres).....34,113
Population (Census 1931).....31,253
Resident population.....34,040
No. of inhabited houses (about)..... 9,724
Rateable Value.....£255,778
Sum represented by penny rate.....£1,000

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	515	271	244	(Birth rate of 1,000 (of the estimated (resident population....16.2.
	Illegitimate	29	19	10	
		Total	M.	F.	
Stillbirths.	Legitimate	9	9	-	(Rate per 1,000 total ((live & still) Births..16.3.
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	
		9	9	-	
Deaths.....		346	172	174	(Death rate per 1,000 (of the estimated (resident population....10.2.

General death rate for England and Wales, 12.1.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrars-General's Short List). (From puerperal sepsis.. - (From other puerperal (causes..... 2

Death rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.....6.25.
All infants per 1,000 live births.....55.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....57.2.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births..... -

General death rate of infants under one year of age for England and Wales.....49.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....68
Deaths from Measles (all ages)..... 1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)..... -
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)..... -

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory facilities :-

During the year the following positive specimens were received from the County Laboratory in respect of this District :-

Swabs..... 3
Sputa.....14
Others..... 3

Ambulance facilities :- Remain the same as in previous years. The service is adequate.

Nursing in the Home :- There is nothing to note under this Heading.

Hospitals :- There is nothing further to note under this Heading.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres were as follows :-

Clinic.	No. of Clinics Held.	Average Attendances.
Ash	22	10
Bean	24	7
Darenth	24	32
Farningham	24	25
Hextable	24	53
Horton Kirby	24	45
Kingsdown	21	35
Longfield	22	32
Southfleet	23	27
Stone	47	31
Swanley	23	55
Wilmington	24	43

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS :-

	Total Attendances.
Swanley	149
Wilmington	15
Stone	124
Longfield	7
Southfleet	50
"Riseley"	468

"RISELEY," MATERNITY HOME, HORTON KIRBY.

On August 31st 1943 the Maternity Home returned to "Riseley" from Franks Hall, Horton Kirby.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.

Health Visitors.
Child Life Protection :- Reports received from the Visitors continue satisfactory and there has been no cause for action.

Arrangements for Dental and Orthopaedic Cases :- Dental and Orthopaedic cases are sent for treatment to the County Hospital, Dartford, under an arrangement with the Kent County Council.

Appointments are made for pre-school children to attend various Ophthalmic Clinics, arrangements being made with the Kent County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water :- No large extensions of mains were carried out during the year. The private supply at Lullingstone was affected early in the year when the pump house was burnt out and the pumping plant broke down. Since repairs were completed, however, the supply has been satisfactory.

Main water supplies by the Metropolitan Water Board and the Mid Kent Water Company. Samples are taken quarterly from these mains and submitted to the County Laboratory. These waters are reported to be bacteriologically an excellent water and well fitted for a public supply. Quality and quantity satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams :- Inspections were made through the Darenth Valley and no cause for action found.

Closet Accommodation :- During the year 1 cesspool was abolished, 2 repaired and 9 privy pits abolished and cesspool drainage and water closets installed.

W.C's discharging into drainage system.....7,351
W.C's discharging into cesspools.....2,047
Pail closets..... 86
Earth closets..... 240

Public Cleansing :- A fortnightly collection of house refuse is carried out over the whole area. Two motor vehicles are employed for cesspool emptying. A Sanitary Depot is provided at Swanley with modern workshop to undertake all running repairs to vehicles under the direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	No. in District.	No. of visits in 1943.	No. of faults and defects found.	No. of faults and defects remedied.
Bakehouses.....	14	37	3	3
Dairies.....	57	636	11	11
Slaughter (Registered)...	-	) 48	-	-
Houses. (Licensed).....	12	)		
Other food-preparing places which are as such, subject to inspection.....	135	426	4	4
Offensive Trades.....	-	-	-	-
Common Lodging-houses.....	-	-	-	-
Houses let in lodgings....	-	-	-	-
Factories.....	38	173	11	11
Workshops.....	7	9	-	-
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes).....	-	-	-	-

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year (other than those enumerated in the above tabulation) :-

Overcrowding.....6
Keeping of Animals.....2
Hop-pickers' Camps.....3

Sanitary Accommodation :-
(i) Insufficient.....2
(ii) Defective.....25

Drainage :-
(i) Reconstructed.....22
(ii) Repaired.....19
(iii) Cleansed.....77

Refuse Receptacles.....10
Tents, Vans and Sheds..... 8
Smoke nuisances..... 3

Yard paving..... 6
Dampness.....14
Roofs and rain water pipes..25

Floors.....15
Walls and ceilings.....113
Windows and ventilation.....14
Baths, lavatory basins and sinks..... 4
Water supplies.....18

Offensive accumulations.....6 Miscellaneous.....515
Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspectors during the year.....3,074

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

1. (a) (i) Number of Council Houses found to be infested..... 2
(ii) Disinfested..... 2

(b) (i) Number of private houses found to be infested.....24
(ii) Disinfested.....24

2. Method employed for freeing infested houses is by stripping wall paper, all walls, skirtings, mouldings, frames, etc., are then sprayed with Zaldecide.

3. Any clothing found to be verminous is sent to Bow Arrow Hospital and put through steam disinfector.

4. All the work of disinfestation is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

5. Follow-up visits are made and instructions given to tenants regarding home management to prevent re-infestation.

SCHOOLS.

All schools are provided with main water supply and only in the outlying parishes the drainage is by cesspool or pits.

No serious outbreak occurred during the year in regard to infectious diseases.

HOUSING.

During the year inspections were made at various properties, the following being a summary of Notices served and complied with under the various Acts :-

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.	96 Informal Notices served.
	79 Complied with.
	9 Preliminary Notices served.
	4 Complied with.
HOUSING ACT, 1936.	16 Informal Notices served.
	12 Complied with.
	7 Preliminary Notices served.
	3 Complied with.

During the year 3 houses were demolished and 2 modern houses rebuilt in their place.

RATS & MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

32 Premises were found to be rat infested during the year. Poisonous bait was used with marked effect. The local Rat & Sparrow Club (Eynsford) continue their active support in destroying rats.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply :- The following are the graded Milk Producers in the District :-

E. E. Taylor.	Kingsdown.	Tuberculin Tested.
W. Alexander.	Home Farm, Eynsford.	" "
W. Alexander.	Manor Farm, Farningham.	" "
W. Alexander.	New Barn Farm, Eynsford.	" "
Houlding Bros.	Speedgate, Fawkham.	" "
J. & B. Martin.	Pinden End Farm, Pinden.	Accredited.
M. T. Fulford.	North Ash Farm.	"
R. Tremlett.	Wilmington Hall Farm.	"

Inspections are made of all dairies and cowsheds. Samples of milk are taken regularly in accordance with instructions received from the County Medical Officer. Other samples are taken as the necessity arises.

MEAT & OTHER FOODS.

No stalls exist in the Dartford Rural Area. All vehicles used as shops are stopped and meat and fish examined. Routine visits are made to all butcher's shops and food preparing places.

The following carcases were examined during the year and found fit for human consumption :-

Cows.....17
Pigs.....144
Calves.....13
Sheep.....60

1 Pig was found to be tubercular and was condemned.

The following foods were also condemned :-

16 lbs. Chocolate.	18 lbs. Biscuits.
73 Tins Milk.	72 lbs. Chopped Ham.
133 lbs. Corned Beef.	1 Tin Sardines.
1 Pig's Head (Tuberculous).	1 Tin Ready Meal.
1 Tin Fish Roll.	1 Tin Herrings.
1 Tin Stewed Steak.	11 Tins Pilchards.
12 lbs. Sausage Meat (Sour).	2 Tins Spaghetti.
5 Tins Baked Beans.	72 lbs. Frozen Liver.
10 Tins Soup.	1 Tin Mackerel.
18 lbs. Cheese.	12 Tins Salmon.
58 lbs. Pork.	2 Bushels Winkles.
59½ lbs. Bacon.	8 lbs. Butter.
1 Cow's Head & Tongue (Tub:)	286¾ lbs. Beef.
85¼ lbs. Pork Luncheon Meat.	14 lbs. Pork Sausage Meat.
18 Tins Plums.	2 Tins Carrots.
3½ lbs. Jam.	9 Tins Peas.
1 Tin Vegetable Salad.	10 Tins Apples.
1 Tin Meat & Vegetables.	1 Tin Beef Loaf & Cereals.
12 Tins Evaporated Milk.	1 Tin Pears.
36 lbs. Cake Flour.	1 Tin Prepared Meat.

28 lbs. Ribs of Beef (Pleurisy).

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food :- No cause for action. All laboratory work is carried out at the County Laboratory.

Nutrition :- Nothing to report under this Heading.

Shell Fish and Other Fish :- There are no shell-fish beds in the waterside area of the Rural District. All shell-fish sold in the area comes from Billingsgate Market.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES.

Upon the return of the Maternity Home from Franks Hall to "Riseley," the Scabies Cleansing Station was consequently transferred from "Riseley" to Avenue House, South Darenth.

On May 4th 1943 application was made to the Ministry of Health for an Order to be made under Sub-Section 1 of Section 147 of the Public Health Act, 1936, making Scabies a Notifiable Disease Within the Rural District. The Ministry of Health approved the Order which was enforced as from June 1st 1943. Medical Practitioners practising in the District were accordingly notified.

During the year 592 persons were treated for Scabies at the Cleansing Station. Two treatments each are normally given, using "Proscabin." Personal clothes, bedding, blankets, etc., are stoved and follow-up visits made to patients. Every person in an infected house is taken to the Cleansing Station for treatment.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1943.

Diseases.	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox.....	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	95x	32	1
Diphtheria.....	33x	4	-
Enteric Fever.....	-	-	-
Dysentery.....	39x	-	-
Pneumonia.....	9x	-	17
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	-	-
Puerperal Fever.....	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	16x	1	-
Polio-Myelitis.....	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1x	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	45x	-	-
Measles.....	201x	2	1
Scabies.....	67x	-	-
TOTALS.....	507	39	19

x 29 Diphtheria cases, 36 Scarlet Fever cases, 6 Erysipelas cases, 39 Dysentery cases, 1 Cerebro Spinal Meningitis case, 39 Measles cases, 2 Pneumonia cases, 28 Whooping Cough cases and 17 Scabies cases occurred at Institutions and Hospitals and were either isolated there or sent to Isolation Hospitals outside this area.

It will be noticed that only 32 of the 95 Scarlet Fever cases were admitted to Hospital.

AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total.
arlet Fever.....	-	1	8	4	10	49	14	1	1	6	-	1	95
phtheria.....	-	-	3	8	5	10	3	2	1	-	1	-	33
ysipelas.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	7	2	16
eumonia.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	1	9
phoid Fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
sentery.....	-	3	15	4	3	7	2	3	1	-	1	-	39
erperal Fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
erperal Pyrexia....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
lio-Myelitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
rebro Spinal Meningitis.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-/
teric Fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
asles.....	5	13	32	9	16	86	20	10	9	1	-	-	201
oopin Cough.....	2	10	15	4	3	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	45
abies.....	1	1	1	1	1	10	4	14	22	5	4	3	67
TOTALS.....	8	30	74	30	38	173	44	30	37	19	17	7	507

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

During the year the following were the numbers of children immunized at the various Clinics :-

Clinic.	Pre-School Children.	School Children.	Total.
Ash.....	4	2	6
Bean.....	4	-	4
Darenth.....	28	21	49
Farningham.....	12	2	14
Hextable.....	31	23	54
Horton Kirby.....	26	36	62
Kingsdown.....	17	12	29
Longfield.....	17	7	24
Southfleet.....	4	5	9
Stone.....	34	41	75
Swanley.....	39	50	89
Wilmington.....	31	19	50
TOTALS.....	247	218	465

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNIZATION.

During the early part of 1943 immunization against Whooping Cough was commenced and the following are the numbers of children immunized at the various Clinics :-

Clinic.	Total.
Ash	6
Bean	3
Darenth	9
Farningham	16
Hextable	37
Horton Kirby	17
Kingsdown	15
Longfield	7
Southfleet	2
Stone	23
Swanley	34
Wilmington	49
TOTAL	218

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936. - No action taken.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases were reported during 1943.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936. - No cause for action.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-
5 - 10	2	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	8	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
25 - 35	4	4	1	1	2	-	-	1
35 - 45	6	5	-	-	4	1	-	-
45 - 55	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	1
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	26	17	8	5	10	5	1	2

Ratio of non-notified deaths to total Tuberculosis, 1 to 10. Enquiries are made where notifications have not been made, and Doctors are written to when there have been oversights.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
actories with mechanical power.....	154	-	-
actories without mechanical power..	19	-	-
ther premises under the Act.....	-	-	-
TOTALS.....	173	-	-

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects. Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
Vant of Cleanliness.....	2	2	-	-
)vercrowding.....	-	-	-	-
Jnreasonable Temperature.....	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation.....	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors..	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Insufficient.....	7	7	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Unsuitable or defective.....	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Not separate for sexes.....	-	-	-	-
)ther offences.....	2	2	-	-
TOTALS.....	11	11	-	-

SALVAGE.

During 1943 progress has been maintained in the collection and disposal of salvage, the following being the figures for the year :-

239¾ Tons of salvage disposed of amounting to £1,289.5s.8d.
405½ Tons of Kitchen Waste collected by local pig and poultry breeders.
14½ Tons of salvage collected by voluntary bodies.
307 Tons of screened dust removed by brickmakers, they finding all labour and taking the dust in payment.

During the National Book Drive held in this District between May 7th and 22nd 1943, the following was the number of books collected, sorted and despatched :-

Books despatched to H.M.Forces.....	6,247.
Books despatched to papermills.....	20,928.
Books of Historical Value.....	85.
TOTAL.....	27,260.

I am,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. ROGERS.